

What is claimed is:

[c01] A communications system for providing call waiting suppression, the system comprising:

a communications dataserver communicating with a communications network, the communications dataserver storing a call waiting suppression profile comprising at least one of (i) an identifier of call waiting suppression reference data and (ii) a timing parameter for suppressing an alert of an incoming communications signal to a receiving party's communications device engaged in an ongoing communication; and

a call waiting suppression application communicating with at least one of the communications network, the communications dataserver, and the receiving party's communications device, the call waiting suppression application generating a call waiting suppression signal, the call waiting suppression signal for deactivating the alert of the incoming communications signal according to the call waiting suppression profile.

[c02] The system of claim 1, wherein the communications network comprises at least one of a public switched telephone network, a mobile switching telephone communications network, and a satellite communications network.

[c03] The system of claim 1, wherein the receiving party's communications device comprises at least one of the following:

- a POTS phone,
- a wireless communications device,
- a mobile phone,
- a wireless phone,
- a WAP phone,
- a satellite phone
- a computer,

a modem,  
a pager,  
a digital music device,  
a digital recording device,  
a personal digital assistant,  
an interactive television,  
a digital signal processor, and  
a Global Positioning System device.

- [c04] The system of claim 1, the communications network further comprising a data network having a call waiting suppression interface via at least one of an internet, an intranet, or an extranet.
- [c05] The system of claim 1, the communications network further comprising a speech-to-text interface with the call waiting suppression application, the speech-to-text interface operable to configure an audio format of call waiting suppression parameters for the call waiting suppression profile to a text format of call waiting suppression parameters for the call waiting suppression profile.
- [c06] The system of claim 1, wherein the communications datasever facilitates call waiting suppression services comprising at least one of (i) billing for communication of the call waiting suppression signal over the communications network, (ii) a schedule parameter that enables call waiting suppression for times of day and days of week, (iii) a deactivate schedule parameter that disables call waiting suppression for times of day and days of week, (iv) an identification and authentication parameter associated with the receiving party's communications device, (v) memory services for data stored with call waiting suppression signals, and (vi) configuration and formatting preferences for the receiving party's communications device.

- [c07] The system of claim 1, wherein the identifier of call waiting suppression reference data comprises at least one of (i) a telephone number, (ii) a directory name, (iii) a date/time identifier, (iv) a geographical identifier, and (v) a caller control signal.
- [c08] The system of claim 7, the call waiting suppression reference data is associated with at least one of the incoming communications signal and an outgoing communications signal.
- [c09] A call waiting suppression system, comprising:
- a first switch communicating with a calling party communications device, the calling party communications device transmitting an incoming communications signal to a communications network;
  - the communications network operable to process an incoming line identification (ICLID) signal of the incoming communications signal to generate a call waiting suppression signal and operable to transmit the incoming communications signal and the call waiting suppression signal to a second switch; and
  - the second switch communicating at least one of the incoming communications signal and the call waiting suppression signal to a receiving party's communications device, the second switch processing the call waiting suppression signal to suppress an alert of the incoming communications signal to the receiving party's communications device when the receiving party's communications device is engaged in an ongoing communication.
- [c10] The system of claim 9, wherein the alert is suppressed after the receiving party's communications device plays an initial audible alert of the incoming communications signal such that subsequent audible alerts of the incoming communications signal are suppressed according to a timing parameter.

- [c11] The system of claim 9, wherein the receiving party's communications device comprises means for displaying a visual indicator of the incoming communications signal, the visual indicator providing at least one of (i) data associated with the incoming line identification signal, (ii) data associated with the call waiting suppression signal, and (iii) a signal to a light source indicating communication of the incoming communication, wherein the visual indicator displays a visual alert of the incoming communication.
- [c12] The system of claim 11, wherein the visual indicator is stored by the receiving party's communications device.
- [c13] A call waiting suppression system, comprising:  
a telecommunications server for processing an incoming communication, the incoming communication from a calling telephone number to a called telephone number associated with a receiving party's communications device, the incoming communication comprising an incoming line identification (ICLID) signal, the telecommunications server also processing a call waiting suppression signal for the called telephone number, the call waiting suppression signal for suppressing an alert of the incoming communication to the receiving party's communications device when the receiving party's communications device is engaged in an ongoing communication.
- [c14] The system of claim 13, wherein the alert is suppressed after the receiving party's communications device plays an audible alert of the incoming communication such that at least one subsequent audible alert is suppressed.
- [c15] The system of claim 14, wherein the subsequent audible alert is selected according to a time parameter.

- [c16] The system of claim 15, wherein the time parameter ranges from approximately one second to approximately two minutes.
- [c17] The system of claim 15, wherein the time parameter is greater than about two minutes.
- [c18] A method for call waiting suppression, comprising the steps of:
- processing an incoming communications signal, the incoming communications signal from a calling party's communications device to a receiving party's communications device;
  - associating an incoming line identification (ICLID) signal with the incoming communications signal;
  - associating a call waiting suppression profile with the ICLID signal, the call waiting suppression profile comprising at least one of (i) an identifier of a calling party, (ii) a communications address, (iii) an identifier of a calling party's communications device, and (iv) a timing parameter for suppressing an alert of the incoming communications signal to the receiving party's communications device when the receiving party's communications device is engaged in an ongoing communication; and
  - generating a call waiting suppression signal, the call waiting suppression signal operable to deactivate the alert of the incoming communication according to the call waiting suppression profile.
- [c19] The method of claim 18, further comprising the steps of:
- communicating at least one of the incoming communications signal, the incoming line identification signal, and the call waiting suppression signal to the receiving party's communications device;
  - playing an initial audible alert of the incoming communication to the receiving party's communications device; and

suppressing at least one subsequent audible alert to the receiving party's communications device according to the timing parameter.

**[c20]** The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of:

communicating data associated with at least one of the communications signal, the incoming line identification signal, and the call waiting suppression signal to the receiving party's communications device.

**[c21]** The method of claim 18, wherein the step of generating the call waiting suppression signal comprises generating the call waiting suppression signal according to the timing parameter, the timing parameter ranging from approximately one second to approximately two minutes.

**[c22]** The method of claim 18, wherein the step of generating the call waiting suppression signal comprises generating the call waiting suppression signal according to the timing parameter, the timing parameter greater than about two minutes.

**[c23]** A communications method, comprising the steps of:

processing an incoming communications signal communication receiving an incoming communications signal from a calling party's communications device to a communications network, the communications network comprising a database of one or more call waiting suppression profiles; and

processing a call waiting suppression signal using a database of call waiting suppression profiles, the call waiting suppression signal comprising (i) an identifier of call waiting suppression reference data and (ii) a timing parameter for suppressing an incoming communications indicator of the receiving party's communications device,

wherein the identifier of call waiting suppression reference data comprises at least one of (i) a telephone number, (ii) a directory name, (iii) a date/time identifier, (iv) a

geographical identifier, and (v) a caller control signal, and wherein the incoming communications indicator comprises at least one of (i) an audible indicator, (ii) a vibrator, (iii) a visual indicator, and (iv) a sensory indicator.

[c25] A computer program product, comprising:

a computer-readable medium; and

a call waiting suppression program stored on the computer-readable medium, the call waiting suppression program suppressing an alert of an incoming communications signal to a communications device while the communications device is engaged in an ongoing communication.